NEW ENGLAND FARMER

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE AND ITS KINDRED ARTS AND SCIENCES.

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RAYNOLDS & NOURSE, *Proprietors.* OFFICE, QUINCY HALL, BOSTON. S. W. COLE, *Editor.*

APPLES.

The question is often asked, whether the unusual attention which is now given to the cultivation of the apple will not, in the course of a few years, glut the market, and reduce the price so low, as to make it a crop no longer profitable to the farmer. We do not believe there is any cause for fear on this ground, and will state a few of the reasons upon which we found our belief.

In travelling, recently, some three hundred miles in various sections of this State, and in New Hampshire, in an open carriage, where we had opportunity to see the country as we passed along, our attention was particularly turned to the orchards on our route, and to the manner of planting and managing them. In some cases the orchard had been started by digging small holes in the old, tough sward, and crowding in crooked trees apparently one or two years from the bud, and there they were left to come up as best they might, in the mean time affording the cattle an annual repast in autumn by way of browse. How many of these lean and lonely trees will survive this treatment and come to maturity, is hardly problematical. It would be next to a miracle, indeed, if they did any thing but droop and die.

In other orchards the proprietors had adopted a different mode. With visions of golden fruits in the dim distance, they began with a commendable zeal in the use of the plow; set their trees in somewhat of a strait jacket, in holes two or three feet in diameter, planted potatoes and hoed them, and bid god-speed to their future orchards. This course is pursued for two or three years when the ground is laid down for mowing or turned to pasture; weeds and grass then choke their roots, mice gnaw their bark, while mosses gather upon their trunks, and disease and death are apparent in every feature; the verdict of any honest man upon them would be—*death*, by imprisonment and starvation.

By a fair calculation as we passed along, we came to the conclusion that this is the fate of about *one-half* of all the apple trees that are set throughout the country. But there are many other ways in which the trees are lost. In many localities the Borer is exceedingly destructive, not suspending its ravages when the tree has come to maturity. Thousands are annually ruined by trimming improperly and at wrong seasons of the year. Cattle and horses always improve the opportunity to help themselves to fruit and break down the branches in browsing upon their extremities. Then there are numerous other casualties constantly befalling them, so that of the whole number annually set in New England, we believe it may safely be estimated that *three-fourths* of the whole amount never produce an apple!

With this thriftless practice all about us, no apprehensions need be entertained that the demand for apples will be any less than at present, for the next quarter century, at least. In another paper we shall speak further on the subject.

CHARCOAL, AND THE POTATO ROT.

The experiment has often been made of applying charcoal to potato hills, as a preventive of the disease which has come well nigh to an extermination of the crop,—but we believe without any satisfactory results. Until recently, we have never known charcoal applied other than in small quantities, scarcely sufficient to give a fair expression of its effects. On returning from the New Hampshire State Fair last week, we passed the residence of Mr. David Lane, of Chester, in that State, and improved the opportunity to inquire what the result had been of planting potatoes upon the ground where he had been burning wood for charcoal. He informed us that he had burned six pits, and that after spreading the fine coal and cleaning up the pits, had plowed and planted the ground with potatoes without manure. He was then digging them, and they had rotted considerably; more, where the coal was in abundance, and less, as he approached the edges of the piece

where little coal had fallen, and where the ground had not been heated. This result is what we had hardly looked for. It cannot be set down as decisive, however, that charcoal is totally inefficient in preventing the rot. Other circumstances, of which we are not apprized, may have had an influence upon the crop—such as the free application of manures for several years past, or that the soil is exposed to the flowings of cold springs, both of which have a strong tendency to accelarate the disease, if not produce it.

It would seem that the severe heat to which the ground was exposed must have destroyed everything in the soil itself that is noxious to the plant, and go far to settle the question, whether there is anything in the soil that induces the disease.

BRISTOL COUNTY SOCIETY.

The annual exhibition of this society took place at Taunton, on the 9th and 10th inst. At the Town Hall there was a magnificent display of fruits and vegetables. The manufacturers and mechanics of Taunton contributed largely in the various departments of business, and New Bedford was well represented by some excellent specimens of the implements used in the whaling business. The ladies of Bristol county furnished a large number of articles of embroidery and needle work, and also aided in the various preparations of fruit.

The exhibition of *neat stock* was good in quality and respectable in numbers, being chiefly of the native breeds, with some thorough-bred Devons. There were no Jersey or Alderney cattle exhibited. By far the best bull present belonged to the society. This was a pure Devon, four years old. The heifers and calves shown were of a superior appearance, and would compare favorably with those of any other exhibition in New England. The working cattle were of a fine character, seldom surpassed here or elsewhere.

The *swine* were of the Suffolk breed, not many in number, but of a fine quality generally. The *horses*, both old and young, were very good, and some of the colts were of great promise. Judging from the appearance of the animals exhibited, there must be many good horses in Bristol county; and from the interest manifested in this branch of the show, the farmers have arrived at the conclusion that it is quite as well to keep good stock, as horses of an inferior quality.

Sheep were present in considerable numbers. The exhibition of *poultry* was rather inferior in every respect, there being few present, and none of them thorough-bred.

At 9 o'clock, A. M., on Friday, the *ploughing match* was held. There were thirty-three entries for the contest. The ploughing was of a superior kind. The ploughs used were manufactured by Ruggles, Nourse, Mason & Co., and D. Prouty & Co., of this city.

At 1 o'clock P. M. a procession was formed and proceeded, under the direction of Theodore Dean, Esq., of Raynham, to Templar Hall, where three hundred ladies and gentlemen partook of a dinner furnished by J. B. Smith, of Boston, the celebrated caterer. After the dinner, addresses were made by Mr. Page, President of the Society, Governor Boutwell, Mr. Proctor, President of the Essex County Society, Attorney-General Clifford, B. V. French, of the Norfolk County Society, and others. The subjects of the addresses were, the interest manifested by farmers and others, in the various branches of agriculture,—the improvements which are constantly being made in its practice,—and the establishment by the State government of agricultural colleges and schools.

The speech of Mr. Clifford, was, however, an exception; he, having been called upon to respond for the ladies to a sentiment complimentary to them, which was given by Mr. Page, the President. Of this duty, Mr. Clifford acquitted himself in a most happy and eloquent manner.

This exhibition, was, as a whole, one of the best that has taken place this year. It shows that the farmers of Bristol county are conscious of their own interests and desirous of advancing themselves in a knowledge of their noble calling.

The officers of Bristol County Agricultural Society, for the ensuing year, are, for President, J. H. W. Page, of New Bedford; for Vice Presidents, John Daggett, of Attleborough, and Alfred Wood, of Dighton; for Treasurer, Samuel A. Dean, of Taunton; and for Corresponding and Recording Secretary, Timothy Gordon, of Taunton.

HAMPSHIRE AND HAMPDEN SOCIETY.

The thirty-third anniversary of this agricultural society took place at Northampton on the 7th and 8th of Oct. The Hampshire Gazette gives a pretty full report of the affair. Their plowing match, it thinks, was better than anything of the kind they have had before. Thirty-two teams being entered. Show of Cattle not very large. The show of Horses better than any former one. Sixty-seven entries were made. The show of fruit was very superior. There were 840 samples. We agree with the Gazette, that Mr. GRAHAM, the Secretary, made a "most eloquent and beautiful speech." Our friend DODGE, of the Journal of Agriculture, who was present as a delegate from the Central Board of Agriculture, had a "good talk" with them, and made some confessions of early sins in the legislature by aiding in cutting off Mr. Colman's agricultural head some years ago. Mr. WINTHROP said he made no pretensions to knowledge pertaining to the practical cultivation of the soil. He spoke, however, of the great want of

system and accurate information in our practice, and in alluding particularly to Massachusetts, added,

"Our lands are limited in extent and more in fertility. Poor at the ouset, they have been long under the plow. And unless intelligence and science shall do something, and something seasonable and effective, to supply the deficiencies of nature, and arrest the progress of exhaustion, we shall leave little but desolation and destitution to our descendants,—so far, at least, as our own Agriculture is concerned. Our Commerce may continue to extend itself, and to spread its wings over every sea;—our Manufactures and Mechanic Arts may flourish and thrive; and our population may have bread enough and to spare,—purchased in exchange for the profits of other pursuits. But if we mean to retain within our borders a prosperous and numerous Agricultural class,—an intelligent, independent, and virtuous rural population,—

'A bold *yeomanry*, their country's pride,
Which, once destroyed, can never be supplied,'

We must take good care to hand down our soil as well as our liberties,—unimpaired to posterity."

The reports on Poultry, Butter, Bread, Cheese and Horses are well drawn and contain many valuable suggestions.

WIRE WORMS.

Professor Mapes, in the Working Farmer, says, that three bushels of *salt* applied to an acre of land will entirely prevent the ravages of the wire worm, and that salt is sure death to that enemy. We should be happy to know that this were so; but a friend from Exeter, N. H., tells us that the kind of wire worms afforded by the Granite State are not so easily got rid of. He has tried various experiments, such as putting a small quantity of salt in the hill and sowing it upon the surface, but without effect. Finally, he made a brine as strong as it could be made, and placed several wire worms in it, and let them remain three or four hours. Upon examination, they were found not only alive, but in excellent spirits and not at all affected by the *pickle* they had been in. Salt is an excellent manure, but we fear it will not kill wire worms.

WITCH GRASS.

Mr. Samuel Ricker, of Wells, Me., writes us in reference to this grass, that he thinks the method of extirpating it, described by "L. W." in the September number of the "Farmer," would always be slow, and oftentimes impracticable, on account of frost. Mr. Ricker's plan is, to plough, harrow and level, and then follow with a brush harrow, which he says separates the roots from the soil and leaves them in a condition to be gathered up easily with the rake. He thinks two operations of this kind will entirely clear the ground of this tenacious grass.

☞ People seldom improve when they have no other model but themselves to copy.

KNAPP'S PATENT COW MILKER.

This invention, patented in Nov., 1849, consists of an India rubber sack, silver cup and piston, which are operated in the following way:

1st. Open the mouth of the sack, and fold it back so as to expose the whole of the upper portion of the tube as far as the silver cup.

2d. Take the lower portion of the piston and ring between the thumb and fore finger of the right hand, holding it firmly.

3d. Take the teat of the cow in the left hand, press a little milk out, just sufficient to see the orifice of the milk passage, then slip the tube into the teat as far as it will go, and with both hands, stretch up over the teat as high as it will extend. This will hold the tube firmly in the teat.

4th. When the instruments are thus applied to all of the teats, place the pail under the bag of the cow, then take hold of the lower portion of the tube close to the teat with one hand, holding it up firmly; and, with the other, take hold of the lower end of the piston, just where the ring passes through it, and withdraw it; when this is withdrawn the milk will flow in a forcible stream from the teat at once.

5th. In a short time the cow will be milked clean, and as soon as the milk begins to cease flowing, or as soon as it begins to drop from either teat, the instrument should be removed in the following manner: with one hand take hold of the lower part of the instrument, and with the other grasp the teat about midway of the sack, and withdraw the instrument, carefully pressing the last drops of milk from the teat through the instrument as it is being removed.

The advantages of this method are said to be, that it does the work in half the time usually required in milking by hand, draws the milk entirely clean from the bag, requires no labor to milk with it, is not injurious or disagreeable to the cow, and does not allow dirt from the bag and teats of the cow to drop into the milk. Cows having sore teats or swelled bags, can always have their milk drawn easily by this milker.

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE FAIR.

The second annual show of this society took place at Manchester, N. H., on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, of last week. The people in every part of the State had taken an unusual interest in its operations during the year, and the officers of the society, together with the committees, and all others in any way connected with its welfare, had been judiciously selected from the several counties, so that there was one common impulse to make everything convenient for strangers, and to make the exhibition as useful and attractive as possible. The first great and important feature of the display was, that everything was brought into one proximity. The stock, poultry, sheep, swine, horses, ploughing match, trotting course, forage, water, booths for dining, and every other convenience, were included in an area of twenty acres, enclosed by a high fence, and surrounded on three sides by a forest of yellow pines. An hydraulic ram had been set up on a neighboring stream, which supplied the animals, as well as persons, with an abundant supply of water.

Horses.—The display of this noble animal was very gratifying. There was a fine stallion, sired by the old Black Hawk, and owned by Mr. S. C. Hall, of Manchester; also several of Black Hawk's colts. The old Gifford Morgan stock was represented with his progeny, some twenty-five or thirty in number. Some good looking breeding mares were also on the ground.

Working Oxen.—In this class there was a better exhibition than we have before seen in New England. There was a team of some fifty pairs from Cheshire County, which afforded an admirable display. They were nearly all of light chestnut color, in good flesh, active and well proportioned. A pair of four years old steers, the property of Gen. Erastus Glidden, of Unity, were the admiration of all beholders; although so young, their weight was *three thousand eight hundred and seventy pounds;* in color, symmetry and proportions, they came as near perfection as the most ardent admirer of the ox could desire. This gentleman's success is proverbial. We were informed on the ground, that he never contends for a premium but he receives it—his stock is always thrifty, attains a large size in a short time, and thus affords a quick profit. In a case like this, where success is looked for as a matter of course, it is important to all stock breeders to know his mode of managing—his particular breed, and everything that secures such results. We therefore hope the society will place Gen. Glidden in such a situation as will draw from him a full report upon the *rearing and management of working cattle.* Many other fine specimens were on the ground, but we have room only to mention one or two of each class.

Bulls.—There were many fine animals in this class. Among them we noticed one five years old, the property of Robert Elwell, of Langdon; a calf eight months old, from Dunbar & Currier, of Warner; another six months old, from G. W. Nesmith, of Franklin, the President of the Society. These animals were all excellent, and pronounced so by good judges who went the rounds with us. There was also a very handsome Ayrshire bull three years old, and weighing *one thousand and six hundred pounds*, the property of John Hazelton, of Orford.

Milch Cows.—The display in this class, we are sorry to say, was sadly deficient. From our own personal knowledge of good milkers in the southeasterly part of the State, only, we know that this deficiency was not because better cows could not be produced. There has been a good deal of attention paid to improvement in Milch Cows; that attention has been crowned with considerable success, and the show might have been such as to have commanded the approbation of good judges. We hope that Mr. Preston, the chairman of the committee on Milch Cows, with such other gentlemen as he can call to his aid, will see to this matter another year, and fill up the pens with cows that will do credit to their exertions. There were specimens of fine Devon Heifers, and the Devon stock of all kinds was highly attractive in its pure dark chestnut color, clear face and fine limbs. Ayrshires were not numerous; two or three cows and as many bulls made up all that we saw of that class. No calves, heifers or steers, were noticed. There were a few pure Short Horns or Durhams; some crosses of them were present with the cows, but as with the Ayrshires, few young cattle or calves. We cannot lose any opportunity of urging upon our friends the importance of paying more attention to our native stock. Those persons who attended the show of the Middlesex County Society, of Massachusetts, this year, will not doubt that our cows, when receiving the attention which is usually bestowed upon the foreign varieties, are not only capable of being made profitable milkers, but of being highly improved in beauty and symmetry, by levelling their prominent hunches, and laying on the juicy muscle in their cavities. The native Milch Cows at that exhibition abundantly proved this—and as they are adapted to our climate and pasturage, no effort should be spared to bring them to as high a state of perfection as possible.

Sheep.—Several lots in this class was presented. Among them was a French Merino Buck, two years old, the property of George Campbell, of Westminster, Vt. His weight was 224 pounds, and in June last he gave a fleece of twenty pounds and twelve ounces of fine wool! As considerable attention is paid to the subject of sheep, by many of the farmers along the Connecticut Valley, we were a little surprised that there was not a larger display. Perhaps Mr. Walker, the indefatigable secretary of the society, and who, we believe, is

conversant with that stock, can give us some suggestions upon that important part of husbandry.

SWINE.—The lots in this class were not numerous. Some handsome Suffolks, and one immense native sow. Our attention was arrested by a sow and five pigs, natives, the property of Mr. JOHN ADAMS, of Bedford. The sow had no claims whatever to any particular beauty, but we do not think it extravagant to say, that the five pigs were the finest we ever saw, be the breed what it might. The owner declared them to be pure natives. To us it seemed that the old dame must have looked into the sty of a Berkshire or Suffolk, to say the least; but if not, this perfection goes to substantiate our opinion of what may be done for our native breeds of animals by the same attention which we give to imported breeds.

POULTRY.—This class, as has been the case at most of the shows in New England, this autumn, was fully represented. The arrangements were pleasant, and Sir Chanticleer, with Dame Partlett, and their attendants, attracted a great crowd of visitors, particularly of the ladies. Birds of every name and nation were there; but the collection that pleased us most was a cage of White Dorkings, the property of Mr. DEWEY, of Hanover. Ducks, Geese, Swans, with birds of lesser wing, all contributed to the cheerful bustle which animated the scene.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.—The display of apples was very fine. We noticed one lot, from SAMUEL SIMPSON, of Derry, which he calls, the *Pound Sweet*, that were unusually handsome in appearance. There were few Pears, Peaches or Plums, it being rather late in the season for them. We noticed fourteen Orange Quinees weighing *eleven* pounds, presented by J. D. PEIRCE, of Dover. Vegetables of every kind were abundant. There were mammoth Pumpkins, Squashes, Beets, Turnips, Cabbages, &c., together with fine specimens of the Cauliflower and Broccoli.

WINTER WHEAT.—Fine samples of this grain in the straw and kernel were exhibited from various parts of the State. One lot from COL. JOSIAH STEVENS, of Concord, was very good. This wheat is considerably cultivated in the State, and is becoming a staple article.

MACHINERY AND IMPLEMENTS.—Here was a fine collection of light, cheap and durable farm implements, horse powers, &c., but only a few things particularly new. We noticed a plough, manufactured by A. DOE, of Concord, with a new feature; this was a cast-iron wheel under the share, and between that and the land piece, the object of which is to roll the plough around the end of the land. This is done by striking an attachment to the roller with the foot which raises the plough from the sod and thus prevents tearing it up. We also noticed the pattern of a new fence, presented by Mr. Stevens, of Concord. It is constructed by nailing light horizontal bars of any convenient length, to upright posts, attaching the bars to each other at their ends. When these are extended, varying a little from a straight line, the fence is made, and standing upon the ends of the posts, sustains itself without entering the ground at all. By drawing two pins from any length, a gate is opened for a passage through. We think this may be found convenient and useful where portions of fields and pastures are taken up for cultivation, and a permanent fence is not desired.

Butter, Cheese and Bread were presented in quantities, and were all of a high order. The hills of New Hampshire offer the finest pasturage for cows, and no reason exists why the best of butter and cheese should not be produced in large amounts in that State.

MANUFACTURED ARTICLES.—There was an extensive variety in this department, of almost every useful and ornamental articles.

On Wednesday evening there were addresses at the City Hall. On Thursday, the address was delivered by the HON. MARSHALL P. WILDER, of Dorchester, Mass., and in the evening addresses again at the City Hall. The crowd in attendance during the Show was very great, and the whole affair is one destined to make a great impression upon the people of New Hampshire.

What the moral and political effect of these great gatherings of the people is to be, can hardly be conjectured. But there is one point which it seems to us must strike all alike, and that is, that all action or speaking upon collateral matters should be most carefully avoided. In its capacious maw the subject of politics has included commerce, manufactures, mechanic arts, and everything which it could possibly embrace within its folds. We trust that it will find no admission into our agricultural festivals to disturb, and finally to destroy them. We shall not think it travelling out of our sphere to present hereafter some admonition on this particular point. If this treacherous rock can be avoided, we see now no limit to the blessings these associations may confer upon the people.

PLOUGHING.

From a letter received from a gentleman connected with the Hampshire County Society, we gather the following facts in relation to the trial of stubble-ploughs, at the late exhibition of that society at Northampton. There were ploughs in use from four different manufacturers, but after a long trial, Ruggles, Nourse, Mason & Co.'s No. 37 was decided to be the best, on account of its great ease of holding, and its superior work.

A feat never before performed in ploughing, was accomplished by one of the contestants, who used Stubble Plough No. 38 of the same manufacturers. Starting his horses at one side of the field, he set the plough, and then let it run by itself to the end

of the lot, a distance of 35 rods. Then it was just touched sufficiently to guide it round to the next furrow, when it *set itself*, and went through without a hand being touched to it. This is a quality which has long been desired, and it is manifest that the plough which can do its work well without being held has little need of any other recommendation.

For the New England Farmer.

"MONSIEUR TONSON COME AGAIN."

In the Lowell Courier of last week is published a supplementary argument in support of Mr. Whipple's theory of insect depredations on the potato, in which it is inferred from the fact that the "grasshopper has sometimes destroyed entire fields of grass or grain," that like destruction may be brought upon the potato, by insects.

If this grasshopper illustration is rightly comprehended, it amounts to this, and no more. Grasshoppers have always been here. Occasionally they eat up all the leaves of grass, rye, &c. In like manner, aphides have always been here,—but only for a few years have they depredated to any considerable extent upon the potato. Hence aphides are the cause of the potato rot. This is what logicians would demonstrate a *non sequitur*.

Are there not two points in this argument that require confirmation? First, that aphides have never injured the potato so much as since the occurrence of the potato rot; and second, that this injury is the true cause of the rot. The assumption that aphides do more injury now, than heretofore, is altogether gratuitous. It may well be asked what possible connection have aphides, or any other insects, with potato rot? Numerous cases have been reported and come within our own observation, where the whole crop of potatoes has appeared perfectly sound, when first dug, and where the potatoes proved good in cooking; but months afterwards, the rot has been developed in those in the cellar. Will it be said that this rot was occasioned by the depredation of aphides or any other insect? I am not surprised that the scientific gentlemen who have taken part in this potato discussion, have left the field to the exclusive occupation of the gentlemen from Lowell; who, if I do not mistake, are one of that class of disputants, "although vanquished, can argue still."

I trust they will pardon the suggestion, that possibly the argument may be so far extended *without point*, as to become as offensive as the rot itself.

October 2nd, 1851.

For the New England Farmer.

MANAGEMENT OF BEES.

Mr. Cole:—I have the last Farmer before me. I see our friend B. F. Conant, in Lyme, N. H., wants information from those that keep bees before he gives us his own experience; however, I will give him the history of my keeping bees. I began to keep them about 1821 or 1822, in the old fashioned hives; they did very well till I got six or eight hives, then the stronger swarms would often rob the weaker ones, and sometimes they would swam late and often go off, and I lost them; at other times they would swarm when I was not at home, and lose them; then in the fall, come to take them up and smother them with brimstone, it gave the honey and comb a disagreeable taste, and I wanted some better mode to get the honey and to save the bees. I went to work in the winter of 1835 and prepared my stuff for a house 8 feet by 10, to put my bees in the next summer, which I did, and have kept them there ever since; the inside of the house I put up shelves, say 12 inches wide and 12 inches apart, then I put the bees on the shelf, and they went to work and have continued to work well. I put another swarm in the other corner of the house, but the first one soon robbed them; so I have kept only one swarm. I have taken 145 lbs. of new white comb made the same year, worth 12 1-2 cents per lb. I will say, here, that it would be unnecessary to build a house for bees, as it would be more expense than to finish a room in the gable end of your barn or the attic of your house and make it tight. The advantage of a house is, you are not troubled with their swarming, because they have room enough to work, and when the weather gets cold the bees go into the middle of the comb; then you may go in and cut off as much comb as you want, only be sure and leave enough for them to live on till the next season. Now I suppose our friend Conant would like to know how I put my bees into the house. Well, sir, I took an old hive and nocked the top off, took the cross sticks out, then I tied the top on so as to keep it in place, then when my bees swarmed I put this hive over them, and they soon went up into it; at night I took them into the house and slipped the top off, then I took a wing and brushed them on the shelf.

J. Brown.

S. Thomaston, Me., Sept. 22, 1851.

For the New England Farmer.

TO PREVENT MICE GNAWING TREES.

Mr. Cole:—I have seen in your paper and in the Boston Cultivator a remedy for keeping the mice from gnawing apple trees; but I have not seen my remedy spoken of, and that is, to tread down the first two snows all round the trees, hard; that is the way I serve my trees and I never had a tree gnawed yet, while my neighbors have had hundreds spoilt by mice. You take my word for it, and I will warrant all trees that are served in like manner, in the country where I live when at home; the snow falls from two to four feet deep; a neighbor of mine teamed wood across his field last winter, and he told me the mice did gnaw the grass roots each side of the path; but they did not trouble the grass in the path. If you think this remedy worthy of notice, you can lay it before your readers, if you please.

A subscriber, and well wisher to your payer.

Andrew W. Sanborn.

Sanbornton, N. H.

For the New England Farmer.

WHEAT.

Mr. Editor:—Farmers in this vicinity in former years raised their "bread-stuff," almost universally, but since the "weevel" has been so destructive, the wheat culture has been abandoned by many, and most have depended on the West for their flour. I have sowed a little with hardly any success for six years past until the last season. On the first day of April last, I sowed a bushel on a high elevation, the poorest land I cultivate; and I have a fair crop, of more worth than I could have

obtained of oats, and the land is left in much better condition for grass. Others have had good crops in this region. Summer wheat is sown here mostly. I am glad that attention is turned again to raising this most desirable crop, and hope that the time is not far distant when every farmer will cultivate it with success. JERE. FULLERTON.

Raymond, N. H., Sept., 1851.

For the New England Farmer.

POTATOES.

MR. EDITOR;—In April last, I called your attention to potatoes raised by Mr. I. Bradstreet, of Danvers, from the seed planted in 1845. They were said to be quite prolific—of good quality—and free from rot. This afternoon, in company with Mr. Allen, chairman of the committe on root crops, in Essex County, I have visited the grounds of Mr. Bradstreet, to ascertain the result of his cultivation the present season. He has raised between nine and ten hundred bushels, on about five acres of ground. His men were employed in digging to-day. The potatoes were large and fair, averaging a bushel to sixteen hills. I never saw potatoes of better appearance. He has not found so much as a bushel of defective potatoes in all his crop. The ground on which he was digging was a light soil, well pulverized, in good condition, this being the second year of potato crop. It was manured with common barn manure—a shovel full to the hill. Mr. B. showed us a field in front of his house, where he raised two hundred and eight bushels from six and a half bushels of seed—on less than one acre of land. Mr. B. cuts his potatoes when he plants; placing several pieces in a hill, each piece having about three distinct eyes, throwing away that part of the potato which has small eyes. He is particular in the preparation of his seed, and in the cultivation afterwards. The last spring he sold more than two hundred bushels of his potatoes for seed; and he feels that his present crop is a good one; quite equal to his expectations. I was pleased with my visit to his farm; and am satisfied that his potatoes are as good as he represented them to be. I planted about half a bushel of them in my garden; but the ground being shaded with trees, there was not a fair chance for growth. Mr. B. has two other kinds of seedlings, which appear well; of their quality I cannot speak, not having tried them. Having said so much in other communications about *rotten potatoes*, and the cause thereof, I am happy in the opportunity to state facts in relation to *sound ones*. Upon asking Mr. B. as to the operations of *insects* upon his potatoes; he says they were never more abundant than the present season; but he thinks *these insects* have no connection whatever with *potato rot*. He is a practical man, of great experience, whose opinion is worthy of regard.

Your ob't serv't,

J. W. PROCTOR.

Danvers, Oct. 15, 1851.

REMARKS.—The facts in this communication, so clearly related by Mr. Proctor, are valuable. It is possible that the rejection of the "small eyes," may induce a more vigorous crop. We should have been glad to know more of the condition and situation of the land; whether it is high or low, wet or dry, and how deeply, and when plowed.

For the New England Farmer.

REPRODUCTION OF POTATOES.

Potatoes are produced from two sources; first, from the ball, or seed of it, and second, from the potato itself. Now, I maintain, if we raise them from the potatoes only, the time will come, sooner or later, that they will decay, rot, and finally become extinct; and that the only way to prevent such an issue is to reproduce them from the seeds in the balls at stated periods. There is in vegetables, as in animals, different sexes. The way to keep animals to their pristine size, health and vigor, is to cross different species of the same genus. Can it be less essential in vegetables of different kinds? But the potato cannot be crossed as long as it is raised from the potato itself, which is produced below the surface of the earth, and of course is not regulated by the laws of sexual contact. It is only when raised from the seed of the ball, which is the result of the blossom of the top, the pollen of which has been in contact, that a cross of different species has been effected. Cattle, bred in and in, as it is called, degenerate, and unless the deteriorating course be arrested by proper remedies, will become extinct. This arrest of decay and reinstatement of health and vigor is effected by seasonable crossing. So of the potato; if it is raised from itself alone, it may be said to be bred in and in; and such a process in the lapse of time will result in decay, and finally in utter extinction of the root. I have little doubt but the potato which has been so raised for a long course of years, is now near its extinction, and that all remedies except the one alluded to will prove as abortive in its application as any quack prescription resorted to, to cure real phthisis in the human species.

The potato has come to its present state gradually. Years before the rot commenced, it had lost much of its former mealy, nutritious quality; as soon as a little cool, speedily it became hard and unpalatable to a much greater degree than it did forty years ago; in truth it is an obvious fact, that the potatoes of this day which *do not rot*, do not possess the palatable, nourishing qualities of former times.

REMARKS. — The subject of potato rot has occupied so much room in our columns, that we feel obliged to make it yield to other matters for the present. We have therefore omitted a considerable portion of our correspondent's remarks. From our own experience, we do not find that the potato has deteriorated in quality, our crop this year being as large, fair, and good flavored, as any that we ever produced. Last year, on an adjoining field, our crop was a failure, the whole field remaining undug; while this year the potatoes are excellent in every way—size, quantity and quality. The whole matter of planting the potato ball has been experimented upon heretofore, without any beneficial results.

☞ A cheerful spirit makes labor light and sleep sweet, and all around happy, which is much better that being only rich.

☞ "I know by a little what a great deal means," as the gander said when he saw the tip of a fox's tail sticking out of a hollow tree.

TENTH ANNUAL FAIR OF THE N. Y. STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Taken as a whole, the exhibition just closed in this city indicated a steady advancement in all the important features of farm implements and the arts of husbandry. Stock breeding, in particular, evidently commands increased attention. The show of Devons has never been approached in numbers, nor equalled in excellence. One gentleman who was a large exhibitor, and constantly on the ground, estimated their number at 500; we thought 350 nearer the truth. Mr. Wainwright, of Duchess, exhibited an imported bull of a light red—a very popular color in England—which was a most beautiful animal, as may be inferred when the reader is informed that the owner refused $300, which were offered for him. He took the first premium among Devons over three years old. The same gentleman was honored with the first premium on Devon cows.

Col. Sherwood's bull, "Earl Seaham," took the first premium in class A, as the best Short-Horn over three years old on the ground. Mr. Morris, of Westchester, received the first primium on cows in this class, and the second on bulls.

Mr. Ayrault, of Geneseo, won the prize on Hereford bulls, and Mr. Prentice, of Albany, that on Ayrshires. The exhibition of neat cattle was very creditable to the State, and their number was not less than 700. Mr. Wadsworth, of Geneseo, took the first premium on working oxen.

It has always been a source of regret to us that so few dairy cows are to be seen at these annual shows. No other domestic animal is more useful, or better deserves every possible improvement. The fat cattle were all that the most fastidious taste could desire. The Hon. Adam Ferguson, Messrs. Wade, Gapper and others, of Canada West, honored the occasion by exhibiting several attractive animals from that province. We hope ever to see a kindly feeling cultivated between the people living under the two governments; and we have reason to believe that such a wish is the prevailing sentiment, alike in the Canadas and the United States.

The high price of good horses, and the liberal premiums of the society, have operated to turn public attention to the rearing and improvement of this class of animals. In skilful hands with sufficient means, the production of horses promises to be very lucrative. There was a large number exhibited, and not a few deserving of notice or commendation; but we have no room in this paper for particulars. Mr. R. F. Pennell, of Somerset, Niagara Co., took the first premium on brood mares; and a special premium was awarded to "Morgan Hunter." Mr. Burnett's thorough bred horse, "Consternation," having by previous premiums been excluded from the list of competitors, received a certificate as the best horse of his class on the ground. Of matched and single carriage horses there was a fair display.

Sheep were abundant, particularly long and middle wooled. The show of Saxons and Merinoes was smaller than usual. Mr. D. Hillman, of Avon, took the first premium on Merino bucks, and Mr. Church, of Vernon, Oneida Co., took the first premium on Saxon bucks. Of mutton sheep, our Canada friends exhibited several pens of fine animals. Mr. Gapper and Mr. Pierce were among the most successful competitors from Canada West.

Swine did not attract particular attention, although there were about the usual number on exhibition, and some were all that could well be desired in the hog line. It is to be regretted that so little attention is paid to the actual cost of growing pigs, sheep and wool, per pound.

Of poultry, there was a good show. The Executive Committee appear to think Malays and Dorkings are the only fowls worthy of encouragement.

The ploughing match was quite spirited, and Mr. Alex. Rumsey, of Ogden, took the first premium.

In no other department was improvement so conspicuous as that of agricultural implements. It would fill a volume to describe those which were really meritorious. Mr. McCormick was present with his world-renowned reaper; Mr. Ketchum, of Buffalo, with his admirable grass-cutter. Steam engines were travelling about on wheels, over rough ground, as steadily as ox-carts; and wheeled cultivators, gang ploughs, seed drills, clod crushers, grain threshers and separators, straw cutters, draining tile and pipe machines, harrows, ploughs, shovels, axes, hoes, ox-yokes, and farming tools of every description, were shown in almost endless variety. Messrs. Rapalje & Co., of Rochester, were the most successful competitors.

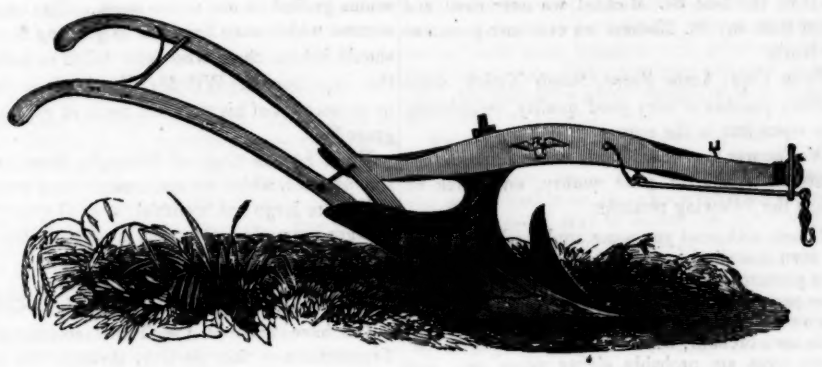
In manufactures, the display was not what it ought to have been. The dust, however, and the rough handling to which fine goods are occasionally subjected by the million, doubtless prevented manufacturers from sending in their best goods for exhibition. Mr. Barton, of Rochester, made a fine display of edge tools. Mr. White, of Buffalo, deserves notice for a similar exhibition. Stoves of every description were shown; and many of them were alike beautiful and useful.

The show of fruit we have never seen equalled. Messrs. Ellwanger & Barry exhibited over 100 varieties of pears, and a large number of apples. The nurserymen and fruit-growers in the vicinity of Rochester prosecute their business with a degree of talent, energy and success worthy of all commendation. Nor are those who reside elsewhere in Western New York undeserving of praise; but it is not our province to attempt a critical award of professional claims to each. There are several gentlemen from whom we should have rejoiced to hear public lectures on fruit culture, during the fair. The occasion should be improved to communicate orally to thousands, with specimen trees, both for root-pruning and top-pruning, and specimen fruits before the lecturer, a large fund of practical and scientific knowledge. We sought instruction, and got very little; and others fared no better. This business should be managed better in future.

Nothing pleased us so much as the sight of so many sober, intelligent and happy people; of whom 100,000 or more visited the exhibition.

The address of Senator Douglass was very well received, particularly by free-traders. It was mainly devoted to political, rather than rural economy. Independent of its political character, the discourse abounds in useful suggestions. It has been extensively circulated in newspapers.

There were over $15,000 received at the fair for tickets of admission, and for membership; and as the city of Rochester paid all the incidental expenses (some $6000) the society has saved a handsome sum after paying its numerous and liberal premiums.—*Genesee Farmer.*



NEW STUBBLE PLOW.

The many advantages of deep tillage and the numerous benefits resulting from breaking and thoroughly pulverising the soil to a greater depth than has usually been practised by the farmers of our country, have now become so apparent, that plows modelled and formed to work even twelve inches deep, are often called for by our better informed and scientific agriculturists.

The plow here represented is of Messrs. Ruggles, Nourse, Mason & Co.'s manufacture, and was one of four used at the late Show of the Hampshire County Society at Northampton; after a closely contested trial it was pronounced the best on the ground, on account of the ease in holding and the superior work which it performed. One of the contestants at that trial, who used Stubble Plow No. 38, of the same manufacturers, started his horses at one side of the field, set the plow, and then let it run to the end of the lot, a distance of 35 rods! Just guided to the next furrow, it *set itself*, and went through without being touched. This is certainly a most desirable point gained, and one that will commend the implement to all good plowmen.

The new Stubble Plows, Nos. 37 and 38, are of shorter construction than any good Sod Plow, and wider at the heel in proportion to the length, which with their peculiar form of the mouldboard, gives them great turning power, completely inverting the furrow-slice, and covering completely all stubble, weeds, long manure, &c., laying open a wide clear furrow to receive the next furrow-slice and for off side ox or horse to walk in. The beams are eighteen inches high above the sole or base of the plow, and are arching forward of the standard, both giving so wide a space as to entirely prevent all clogging or choking by collecting sods, stubble or long manures under the beam. The No. 37 works admirably at any depth from 6 to 10 inches, and the No. 38 from 6 to 12 inches deep.

☞ Truth is a hardy plant, and when once firmly rooted, it covers the ground so that error can scarce find root.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

From Charles H. Perkins, Weathersfield, Vt., Jackson and Henderson Pears. It had been suggested that these pears were identical; and we are requested to give our opinion on the subject.

We have also received Jackson Pear of Mr. Lucien Jackson, Claremont, N. H., and his statement on the subject will explain this affair. He says:

"The originals, (for there are two kinds united) were a seedling grown on my place, and another grown by H. P. Henderson, of this town also. The former is a smallish pear, very juicy, and a remarkable bearer. I have counted twenty touching each other on one limb. This is the stock upon which the latter is grafted. The latter is a very thin skinned, juicy pear, but no great bearer. Upon grafting them together, the result was the 'Jackson Pear,' resembling both, but better than either. I claim for it a superiority in sweetness, thinness of skin, abundance of juice and great bearing. In the last quality I will challenge the world to beat them. They grow in bunches like the stock on which they are grafted. I counted 90, this year, on a limb four feet long and not more than three-fourths of an inch in diameter. I am obliged to tie up the limbs to prevent their breaking. They ripen best when picked quite green; about the first of September, I think is the best time. I can supply you with as many scions as you wish for."

The pears that Mr. Perkins sends, were procured from Mr. Jackson; of course they are identical with them. We find that the Jackson and Henderson Pears are identical; and that the former are fully equal to the latter in quality. And had they been modified by grafting on each other, that modification would be of no importance, as it doubtless would have been lost in propagating the fruit.

The Henderson and Jackson Pears in color, texture and quality are precisely the same as the St. Michael; in shape they differ slightly from the true type of the St. Michael, but we have seen the St. Michael of the same shape; they are little larger at the top, and taper more to the stem than the St. Michael. We think these pears are the St. Michael, or a slight modification of that cele-

brated variety from seed. In quality they are equal to the best St. Michael we ever saw; and better than any St. Michael we ever saw grown so far North.

From Capt. Amos Perry, South Natick, some seedling peaches of very good quality, considering they ripen late in the season.

Of Thomas Cushman, Bridgewater, some large handsome apples, of good quality, on which he makes the following remarks:

"I herewith send you some apples which I have not seen described in any publication. The scions were procured by Mr. Joseph Latham, I think from some part of Middleborough, and were set in his brother's orchard by my father, who also set some in his own orchard, which is now in my possession. These trees are probably eighty years old; and though very much decayed, are the best bearers in the orchard. These apples are known in this vicinity by the name of *Uncle Joe* apples."

From Samuel L. Powers, Cornish, N. H., some large, handsome sweet apples, of excellent quality, but he remarks they are shy bearers; the tree is hardy. Also some late russets.

From F. Clapp, Dorchester, very large, fair, sweet apples, called Hildreth Sweeting.

From Asa Burnham, Essex, very large and beautiful Baldwin apples from a tree five years from the bud.

Of John Raynolds, Concord, (one of the publishers) several varieties of apples. Among them is a beautiful sweet apple of good size and remarkably fair and perfect, having no defects of any kind. It is excellent for baking; it is probably a new variety.

From H. B. Wyman, Salem, a splendid specimen of Flemish Beauty pear in fine condition.

From Horace Collamore, Pembroke, so far decayed we could not judge.

From E. Hosmer, West Acton, a large beautiful apple for a name. We are not acquainted with it.

From Abel Butterfield, Lexington, a very beautiful specimen apple, large size. It is not among the kinds usually cultivated in this section; as it is hard, we have not tried its quality.

From J. L. Lovering, Hartford, Vt., Briggs pear, ripens fortnight earlier than St. Michael, medium size and very handsome. It is considered a seedling; the original tree, eighty years old, is in Woodstock, Vt., bears eight or ten bushel annually. Such is the account which we have of this fruit. We think it is the St. Michael; it is like it in form, color and quality, though the quality is not quite so high as the St. Michael usually is, but we have had specimens of the St. Michael in cool seasons from the North no better than these.

From Rufus Kittredge, Portsmouth, N. H., a bunch of native grapes, very good quality for the kind; also, fine specimens of the Moody Apple.

From Joseph Harris, Lynn, some very fine bunches of Catawba and Isabella grapes, raised on scions grafted on one native stock. The excellent success which some have had in grafting the grape should induce those who have failed to make further experiments. Will Mr. Harris please to give us an account of his time and mode of grafting the grape?

From Lyman Gay, of Walpole, Mass., apples and peaches, which we are unacquainted with; the apples are large and beautiful, of good quality; the peaches are a clingstone, and a valuable late kind for preserves.

N. Y. STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

We have received the Tenth volume of the Transactions of this Society, through the politeness of its Secretary, B. P. Johnson, Esq., of Albany. It is a large book of between seven and eight hundred pages, handsomely printed on good paper, and in every way reflecting credit upon the society. The engravings of the animals represented—the drawings of grasses, and fossil remains—the geological illustrations, and meteorological records are all finely executed, and are highly interesting. The History of Agriculture, by Mr. Delafield, the President of the Society, is a work in itself of much research, and of great value to the whole country. The essay by J. J. Thomas, Esq., upon Agricultural Dynamics, or the laws of motion and force, as applied to the ordinary practices of farming, including, as it does, a consideration of the lightness, strength and durability of farm implements, is comprehensive and clear, and will supply a deficiency which has long existed among us. As the principles described in this essay are applicable every where, we hope to see it published by itself in a handsome and attractive form, so that it will become at once a book for the million. In the present state of inquiry in the farming community into mechanical principles, the laws of attraction, velocity, &c., something has been needed of a familiar kind to meet their inquiries. It seems to us that this essay will supply that want, if it can be published in a cheap form, and will prove an important help to all who have the spirit of progress in them.

Upon the whole, we consider this tenth volume of Transactions of the New York State Society as one of the most valuable books on agriculture that we have seen for a long time, and shall take occasion to refer to it again.

Peat in Vassalboro'.—Mr. Daniel Smiley, of Vassalboro', shew us last week some very good specimens of peat, an abundance of which he has found by draining a pond upon his premises. He will find this a valuable deposit for the purposes of manure or fuel.

If converted into charcoal by coating it in a coal-pit or in any other way, it will become valuable as a deodorizer if put into vaults, cess-pools, or such like places, where it is desirable to have the gases

and foul air arising therefrom absorbed and neutralized.—*Maine Farmer.*

For the New England Farmer.

YANKEE HENS.

I see your correspondent, Mr. Todd, goes in for the Yankee Hens, and like a man who knows what he is about, gives us some of the "*fowl facts*" I was asking for the other day. His memorable twenty-four biddies are certainly the smartest samples of that stock we ever heard of. The general average of the laying of native hens, in such accounts as I have seen, has not exceeded ninety or a hundred. The average of his twenty-four is 137 1-2. I have never had so happy experience with the natives. It has always been difficult to start them in laying early in winter, and they give out very early in the fall. As soon as the moulting season commences, their bodies are not large enough to produce both feathers and eggs at the same time. This is also the great failure of the Polands. They cease laying for some three months in the year. Good samples of the Shanghaes or the Chittagongs, that will weigh 18 pounds and upwards to the pair, are large enough to endure the large drain upon the system of moulting, without stopping the manufacture of eggs. At least this is my experience with the Shanghaes, and report speaks as well of the Chittagongs. I have the fowl facts for the former, and at the close of the laying year, shall be ready to report for the edification of all lovers of poultry. Though they have been moulting for more than a month, the eggs keep coming, and the average already exceeds that of "the right kind of fowls." As to hardiness, my experience is altogether in favor of the Shanghaes. Of the first litter of 11 hatched in March, 10 are now living. Of the last 22 hatched, not one has died. Of the intermediate broods not over ten per cent. have died. I counted myself happy if I raised fifty per cent. of the native chickens hatched. Of the Polands I have lost three out of every four hatched this season.

The expense of keeping I have not accurately determined, but should not put it so high as Mr. Todd has done. I think that three Shanghae hens will thrive upon the same amount of food that four natives will; that the former will give you more eggs and nearly double the flesh upon the same keeping. But I have not the facts for this opinion. The facts in this region are rather against Mr. Todd's prophecy, that the imported races will run out in ten years. The Shanghaes have been in this vicinity since their first importation in 1846, and are now as large and prolific as when first imported. Careful breeding and good care will procure their good qualities. When the Durhams and the Devons, among the neat cattle, and the Suffolks and Berkshires among swine, run out among us with proper care, we shall look for the degeneracy of the Dorkings, and the recent Asiatic races of fowls that have found a home among us. Meanwhile let us have fair experiments and the facts. If any one has a native flock that will average higher than Mr. Todds, let him publish. As there is force in the remark of your correspondent that pocket interest has indited most of the articles on fowls, I feel bound to state, that though I have given away both fowls and eggs of the pure blood quite freely, and sometimes used a Yankee's privilege in *swapping*, I have yet to pocket the first copper for either fowls or eggs. I have an interest in determining "the right kind of fowls," and hope breeders will give us the facts carefully noted. If Yankee hens will give us most eggs and flesh for a given amount of food, I go in for them.

Your correspondent, Mr. Dimon, has hit upon the difficulty in the way of solving this fowl problem; it is accompanied "with no little expense and inconvenience to the experimenter." Yet is there any other way to determine the question? Mr. T. says the right kind of fowls are the Yankee hens, because they lay on an average 137 1-2 eggs annually. Mr. D. says the right kind for eggs are the Black Spanish, but fails to give the facts on which his judgment is made. If we only had these, and knew the cos tof keeping, we could judge for ourselves between the Yankee and the Spanish. A single experiment, indeed, would not determine the matter, but a sufficient number giving the same result would conduct us to right conclusions. How can a man determine for himself the relative merits of two breeds of fowls when he keeps no account of the expense of keeping or of the eggs and poultry they manufactured. If those who breed for profit cannot be induced to take the trouble, let amateurs make accurate experiments, and help each other to the right kind of fowls. Nothing would abate the fowl fever more speedily.

Stonington, Ct., Oct. 13, 1851. W. C.

THE MILK ESTABLISHMENT OF GEO. E. ADAMS.

When in the city of Boston a few days since, a friend invited me to ride out to Medford, some six miles distant, and look at Mr. George E. Adams' stock of cows, and at his management of the same for the production of milk for families residing in the city.

Mr. Adams has a well arranged barn, large enough to stable sixty cows, and to hold the hay annually consumed by them. The barn has a floor or drive-way extending through its entire length, with a bay on one side, and on the other side, stables for the cows and a scaffold over them. Platform scales are set in the floor near one end of it, for the convenience of weighing loads of hay, and other bulky substances, and for weighing anything else bought or sold. Underneath the barn floor and stables is a cellar, for the making and storage of manure. The cows are made warm and comfortable in winter, and by means of ventilators in the roof and upper regions of the barn, pure air can be furnished the cows, without subjecting them to currents of cold air. The barn can also be made cool and comfortable in summer.

The stock of cows varies in number from 40 to 60 head; they are mostly bought in the fall, milked 8 to 12 months, and then sold to the butchers for beef, at a price about $5 per head less than their cost as new milch cows. Some superior milkers are kept along for three or four years, producing calves each year; but as a general rule, it is considered better economy to sell most of the cows for beef at the end of 8 to 12 months, and purchase new milch cows fresh from the country, than allow them to be in calf, and incur the expense of keeping them while dry.

The cows are pasturing about four months of the year, commencing the first of June. They are stabled nights during the time, are milked at evening and morning in the stables, and have green feed, such as clover, corn stalks, &c. in their mangers, evenings and mornings. The rest of the year they are stabled night and day. Once a day they are turned into a warm shed erected over a well of water with a pump in it, the shed containing a long water trough, with stanchels in front of it, where the cows are fastened until the stables are cleansed, and until they have drank their fill. Aqueduct water was formerly brought to the barn for the cows, but was found to be inferior to the well water because of its greater coldness in winter. Experience has taught that the cows must be kept warm in winter, in order that they may be thrifty and give a good quantity of milk.

During the eight months that the cows are kept exclusively in the barn they are fed upon hay and meal. Twice each day they have a quart of meal apiece, (in the proportion of three-fifths oil meal to two-fifths corn meal,) sprinkled upon cut hay, and the whole moistened with water; they are also fed frequently during the day with a little dry hay at a time; twice a day they have a mess of "slops," or in other words, one quart of meal apiece, each time, (two-fifths corn meal to three-fifths oil meal,) with sufficient water added to make a mess of three gallons measure to each cow. The meal, an hour or two before being fed in this form, is put into a large box, set upon low truck wheels; the water is immediately poured on, and the contents are frequently stirred, so that the meal may become thoroughly soaked and swelled, in which state it is thought to be more digestible, and to produce more milk, than if fed as soon as mixed with the water. A little finely cut hay is stirred in with the meal and water, to give the mess greater consistency. When this drink is to be given, the box containing it is trundled along on the barn floor, in front of the stalls, and from a large ladle, holding just the right quantity, each cow receives her mess in a water-tight manger. The cut feed is mixed in the same large box, which is moved along from stall to stall, for convenience of feeding. A clock in the meal room indicates the times when the cut hay and meal, and the "slops" are to be given, and strict regularity of hours is observed in dispensing the same. More milk is obtained from the cut feed and the drink, than could be derived from dry hay and meal; more milk is obtained from feeding part of the meal in form of "slops," than could be realized by feeding all upon cut hay.

The meal keeps the cows in fine sleek condition, and in eight to twelve months from the time they are purchased, they are good beef. They are carded daily, and kept perfectly clean. A trench behind them, four inches deep, twenty inches wide, receives the manure and urine, so that the platform or floor upon which they stand, or lie down, is always dry and clean, and so is the walk behind them, beyond the trench, dry and clean. Mr. Adams says, that in consequence of keeping the cows clean, the barn well ventilated, and of dispensing the feed with great regularity, he is seldom troubled with a sick cow.

Exact regularity of time is observed in milking, and the cows average about eight quarts each per day. The milk, as soon as drawn, is taken to a room at the house, and strained into large tin coolers, set in a vat containing ice-water in summer, and cold water in winter, in order to take out the animal heat, so that the milk may be fresh and sweet when delivered in town. The morning's milk is cooled as speedily as possible, and mixed with that drawn the night previous; the whole is then taken immediately to the city in small tin cans, and delivered to customers in two hours' time. All vessels into which milk is put, are daily washed and scoured, and kept perfectly bright and sweet. The milk room is always neat and clean. The milk sells at five cents per quart in summer, and six cents in winter.

Mr. Adams, by keeping so many cows, and feeding them high with meal, is enabled to make a large quantity of very strong manure. In order to preserve its strength, to save all the urine, as well as for convenience of cleaning the stables, he has a cellar under the barn large enough to hold a year's stock of manure. It is thrown into the cellar through scuttles in the stable floor, and about once a month, the heaps accumulating underneath are spread evenly about, and a quantity of loam tipped in, sufficient to cover the manure four inches thick; or, in other words, three parts of loam are mixed with two parts of manure. Before carting the compost out to the fields, it is shovelled over from top to bottom, and so thoroughly mixed as to make it of uniform quality throughout. Without the addition of loam, and the thorough mixture of shovelling over, the manure would be so wet and heavy as to create great inconvenience in loading, carting, and spreading the same, as there is a great deal of liquid manure, in consequence of the cows receiving so much of their food in a wet state.

In addition to the stock of cows, Mr. Adams keeps four or five horses for the distribution of the milk and for work on the farm, and two to four working oxen. It is therefore a great object with him to produce a large quantity and a good quality of hay for the support of his numerous stock. He has 30 or 40 acres of sandy and gravelly land, 20 acres of salt marsh, all of which produce hay exclusively. Each field of the dry or upland soil is plowed every fifth year, in August or September. The land is smoothly turned over to the depth of eight or nine inches; thirty loads, or ten cords, of compost to each acre spread upon the furrows and harrowed in; one-half bushel of herds-grass, three pecks of red-top, and ten to twenty pounds of clover seed sown to the acre, and bushed in; and the surface is then smoothed with the roller. In July of the next season the new seeding is fit for the scythe; and the land produces good crops of hay for five years. For the first year or two the hay made from the new seeding is principally clover, which is mostly mowed and fed in a green state to the cows, in their stalls. For the remainder of the five years, the hay is red-top and herds-grass, with a mixture of white clover, which comes into the sward of itself. Twenty acres of moist land, lying upon a flat surface between the upland and salt marsh, are never plowed, but are kept in perpetual grass by a top-dressing of twenty-five loads of compost to the acre, every third year. Red-top and white clover are natural to this land, and at haying time a heavy, thickly matted swarth of grass rolls from the scythe, which makes remarkably milk-producing

hay for the cows. Thirty acres of the marsh produce a good quality of salt hay, and twenty acres lying low, and being subject to flowage, yield an ordinary quality of hay. In feeding cut hay to the cows, a mixture of salt and fresh hay is given, which is agreeable to them, and promotive of health and thrift.

Mr. Adams raises a variety of fruit. His orchards of the apple give, in good seasons, from five to six hundred barrels of fruit. There is an old orchard on the farm that contains some of the largest apple trees I have ever seen; they are very sound and thrifty, their tops spread over a wide surface of ground, and the trees are very productive. The soil in this orchard is kept open with the plow; it is manured with about twenty loads of compost to the acre every third year, no crop being put into the land; indeed the foliage of the trees is so dense and luxuriant that no crop other than the apple can grow. Among smaller younger trees corn is sown, in drills, for the production of green feed for the cows.

In a portion of one of the orchards the ground became badly infested with twitch-grass, which could not be killed with the plow. Last year the land so encumbered was fenced off by itself, several bushels of corn sown broadcast to the acre and plowed in, and fifteen or twenty hogs turned into the enclosure. They immediately began to root for the corn, and with the most untiring industry turned the soil over and over again. A few weeks after, corn was again sown and the land plowed, and the hogs again rooted it over. Then the operations were again repeated; and this year no twitch-grass is seen.

I had but an hour or two to spend with Mr. Adams. I should have been glad to have devoted at least a day to an examination of his farming, for I saw enough while there to convince me that he is a very enterprising, excellent farmer. I hope to call upon him again, at a time when I have more leisure; and if I do, I will give a more extended account of his farming.

Brattleboro', 1851. F. Holbrook.

AGRICULTURAL CIRCULAR FROM PATENT OFFICE.

The Commissioner of Patents has issued a circular desiring farmers to furnish answers to the following questions:—the replies to be forwarded before the 1st of January, giving the name of post office, county and State from which the answer is sent. The U. S. Census will furnish reliable data as to the quantity of grain and other crops, the number of domestic animals, &c., so that such questions are omitted in the circular.

Wheat.—Is guano used in the production of this crop? And, if so, what is the gain in bushels per 100 lbs. of the manure? What the average product per acre—time of seeding and harvesting—preparation of seed, and quantity used per acre—how many times and how deep to plough—your system of rotation in crops—best remedies for Hessian flies and weevils—average price at your nearest market in 1851.

Corn.—Is guano used in the production of this crop? If so, in what way is it applied? What is the gain in bushels per 100 lbs. of guano? State the average product per acre—cost of production per bushel—state the best system of culture—best method of feeding, whether whole or ground, cooked or raw. State, if you can, how much grain the manure formed by ten bushels of corn consumed by hogs will add to an acre, if carefully saved and skilfully applied, at or before the time of planting.

Oats, Barley, Rye, Peas and Beans.—Average yield of the several crops per acre—quantity of seed used—which crop least exhausting to land—are peas cultivated as a renovating crop, and, if so, with what success?

Clover and Grasses.—Quantity of hay cut per acre—best fertilizer for meadows and pastures—the grass seeds preferred in lying down meadows—cost of growing hay per ton.

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Dairy Husbandry.—Average yearly produce of butter or cheese per cow—comparative cost per lb. of making butter and cheese—treatment of milk and cream—mode of churning—of putting down butter for market—average price of butter and of cheese.

Neat Cattle.—Cost of rearing till 3 years old—usual price at that age—value of good dairy cows in spring and in fall—how many pounds of beef will 100 lbs. of corn produce—will a given amount of food yield more meat in a Durham, Devon, or Hereford, than in a native animal? How do you break steers to the yoke?

Horses and Mules.—Is the growing of these animals profitable? What is the expense of rearing a colt or mule until three years old? How should brood mares and colts be treated? What is the best way to break young horses and mules for service.

Sheep and Wool.—Is wool-growing profitable—cost per lb. of growing coarse or fine wool—how many pounds of wool will a ton of hay produce—are large or small sheep more profitable either for their mutton or for their fleece—how much more does it cost to produce a pound of fine Merino than of ordinary coarse wool? The proportion of lambs annually reared to the number of ewes.

Hogs.—What the best breeds — the cheapest method of producing pork and bacon—how many lbs. of meat will 100 lbs. of corn yield—the best method of putting up pork, and curing bacon and hams.

Cotton.—Average yield of clean cotton per acre—cost of production per lb.—what crops best grown in rotation with cotton—best preventives against rust, army and boll worms—how deep do you usually plough for this crop; have you any experience in subsoiling or deep tillage for cotton—your experience in the use of cotton seed as a fertilizer—how can cotton lands be best improved without resting them? Is guano used; and, if so, with what result?

Sugar Cane.—Is the cane losing its vital force and becoming more subject to premature decay than formerly—should not the seeds in place of rattoons be occasionally planted to produce new and healthier varieties—can you suggest any improvement in cultivation of the cane, or the manufacture of sugar—cost of producing sugar per lb.? Is guano used; and, if so, with what result?

Rice.—Can rice be successfully cultivated on upland—do you know of any varieties decidedly su-

perior to others which deserve increased attention—can you suggest any improvement in the management of rice plantations? Quantity grown per acre.

Tobacco.—Average yield per acre—cost of production per cwt. or hhd.—describe any new process of cultivation or curing—crops best grown in rotation to maintain the fertility of tobacco land. Is guano used, and with what result?

Hemp.—Is the culture of hemp on the increase or decrease. Describe any new process of culture or preparation for the market—average yield per acre—cost of production per lb.

Root Crops, (Turnips, Carrots, Beets, &c.)—Is the cultivation of these roots, as a field crop, on the increase—can you suggest any improvement in preparing land, seeding, after tillage and feeding? Average product per acre.

Potatoes, (Irish and Sweet.)—Average yield per acre—cost of production per bushel—most prolific and profitable varieties—best system of planting, tillage and manuring.

Fruit Culture.—Is the culture of fruit receiving increased attention—cannot apples enough be grown on an acre to render the crop a very profitable one to the farmer—comparative value of apples and potatoes for feeding hogs and cattle—what varieties to keep for winter use and for exportation—do you know any preventive or remedy for the "blight" on pear and apple trees, or the "yellows" on peach trees? The best method of transplanting, budding, grafting, &c. Make any suggestions on the culture of *grapes*, and other fruit—the manufacture of *wine* and on *forest culture*.

Manures.—What is regarded as the best plan of making and preserving manures from waste—are *lime* and *plaster* used as fertilizers—if so, in what quantity, and how often applied—is *guano* used, and with what success? Quantity usually applied per acre.

Meteorology.—Time and degree of highest and lowest range of thermometer—mean temperature of each month in the year—fall of rain in each month, and aggregate for the year.

FIRE—ARTIFICIAL HEAT.

The cool weather is reminding house-keepers of the necessity of artificial heat for keeping themselves comfortable. The multiplication of fires of course increases the danger of accidents from such cause, and in addition to greater care, some knowledge of the principles to be pursued in the management of fires is necessary. A writer in the Traveller, whose initials are those of a distinguished chemist of this city, calls attention to the causes of spontaneous combustion. Porous bodies, like pine charcoal, when perfectly dry, absorb rapidly oxygen from the air, and take fire at the temperature below 212 deg. F., or the boiling point of water. Light chaff of corn and shavings took fire at 300 deg. F., in a drying-room of a corn-mill. A drying-room of a chemical and color labratory took fire at 240 deg. F. Pine chips from oil of turpentine works, packed in a barrel, took fire at ordinary summer heat. The wood-work around steam-pipes never heated so high as 300 deg. F., becomes charred, or is converted into brown charcoal. Oiled cotton and rags imbued with any drying oil, when packed in a mass into a barrel, take fire at ordinary temperatures of a factory. Mixed lampblack and linseed oil take fire at ordinary temperatures, if the lampblack is in excess, or a portion of it is dry. Strips of new painted carpet, stowed away in a garret in a mass, took fire at the summer heat of our climate. A knowledge of these facts, with sufficient care, will prevent fires from spontaneous combustion.

Carpenters and masons in building should not bring any wood-work against those parts of chimneys that are likely to become heated, either from ordinary fires or from fires in the soot of the chimneys. The timbers get charred and the admission of air through cracks of the plastering, or in the chimney, will cause the destruction of such houses.

When the air-chamber or a furnace is small, a quantity of very hot air is delivered by the register. This is always dangerous, and it is also a most uncomfortable and unwholesome heat, drying up furniture and cracking the wood-work of the house. Straw carpeting and wood have been set on fire by the heat of a hot-air register. A furnace should deliver a very *large volume of warm air*, and thus secure good ventilation with air that is not so desiccating as to injure the house or impair health. The action of vinegar of wood, a pyroligneous acid, on the mortar of chimneys, removes the cement from between the bricks, and thus exposes the house to fire from the chimney, which, after the use of the so called air-tight stoves, is charged with the most powerfully inflammable matters. The mortar of new houses, not fully hardened, is most readily dissolved out by acids from air-tight stoves.

When a fire has taken in the furring of a house, do not cut a hole below or at the place of the fire, but always cut through *above* it, but not before you have a few buckets of water ready to pour down upon the fire. When a chimney with a fire-place gets on fire, and burns so as to endanger the house, the fire may at once be extinguished by throwing a pound or two of brimstone into the fire, and closing up the fire-place with a fire-board or screen. Stopping the top of the chimney by a damper is also a good way to extinguish the fire in it, for the carbonic acid formed soon puts an end to combustion. On board ships, it is very easy to extinguish a fire in the hold by means of carbonic acid gas.

TO PROTECT SHEEP FROM DOGS.

The general evil of dogs, which I see is claiming at present the most stringent legislation in our Northern States to protect the sheep, likewise exists with us. Our own legislature has done much, and will, no doubt, do more at the proper time, to eradicate this evil. In the mean time, let me publish to the sheep-raising world a remedy against the destruction of sheep by dogs, which was given me a short time since, by a highly respectable and valued friend, himself an extensive wool-grower. It consists simply in placing on one sheep in every ten of the flock a bell of the usual size for sheep The reasoning of my friend is this: the instinct of the dog prompts him to do all his acts in a sly, stealthy manner,—his attacks upon sheep are most frequently made at night while they are at rest, and the sudden and simultaneous jingling of all the bells, strikes terror to the dogs; they turn tails and leave the sheep, fearing the noise of the bells will lead to their exposure. The ratio of bells might be made to vary according to the size of the flock.

The importance of sheep preservation from dogs,

the writer hopes, will claim for this communication an insertion in most of the papers of the Union, that a remedy so cheap and simple may be fully tested.—*Richmond Whig.*

Mechanics' Department, Arts, &c.

BEAUTIFUL SPECIMEN OF MECHANICAL SKILL.

The foreign correspondent of the *Tribune* very graphically describes a beautiful specimen of artistic skill in Russia, being a magnificent coffer, prepared at the Emperor's command, as a present to the Empress. It is a large box of ebony, the top and sides of which are ornamented with clusters of fruit, of the natural size, all carved out of precious stones, immense quantities of each having been cut up in search of portions possessing the particular flaws which serve to produce the effect of the seeds, veins, and other natural peculiarities, which are imitated with such perfect truthfulness.

The writer remarks: Look at these purple grapes, cut out of amethyst; how exquisitely shaded the rich luscious berries, paler underneath, and seemingly covered with a soft bloom; it needs all the reiterated asservations of the Russian Commissioner to persuade us that all this shading is natural, and that no coloring process whatever has been resorted to; these berries of the mountain ash, carved out of coral; these plums, formed of one of the rarest and costliest stones, the onyx; these cherries, through whose transparent skin the juice seems starting; and these white and red currants, every seed and vein showing through the transparent pulp, all of red and white cornelian; these pears of agate, whose mottled and sun-browned rind might challenge competition with the finest Bergamont, the ripest Duchess that ever hung on sunniest espalier. All these fruits, except the grapes, which are whole, are in semi-relief only, and are seemingly embedded in the wood. The leaves are of jasper, and are fully as wonderful as the fruit—every little vein, withered spot, or slimy traces of caterpillar, being rendered with scrupulous accuracy. The rims and edges of the coffer are richly carved, and cost altogether thirty thousand dollars."

RAILROADS OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Massachusetts has constructed 1,150 miles of railroad, at a cost of $52,000,000; and the other New England States have constructed 1,799 miles more at a cost of $55,000,000. To these might be added the Northern New York (or Ogdensburg) Railroad, which is virtually a New England road, making a total of about 3,000 miles of railroad, constructed at a total cost of upwards of $110,000,000.

The gross earnings in 1850, of all the railroads in Massachusetts, and of those that are partly in Massachusetts and partly in adjoining States, were $6,903,328. The net earnings, during the same time, were $3,480,347. The cost of these roads was $53,264,000. The net income was therefore more than 6 per cent. on the total cost.

The number of passengers transported over these roads during the same time was 8,973,681, which gives an average of 28,754 a day for 312 days.—*Scientific American.*

NEW WINDOW SASH FASTENER.

Mr. J. B. S. Hadaway, of Uxbridge, Norfolk County, Mass., has invented and taken measures to secure a patent for a very ingenious and beautiful fastener for windows. Quite a number of window fasteners have already been brought before the public, but we have seen none like this: there is a small box cast, with a neat short handle in it attached to a small vibrating plate catch, and this is put on the window sash, with the lever handle at the inside and the catch acting on the window frame (out of sight) to retain the window at any point. A spring in the small box makes the catch self-acting, so as to keep it in its proper place and position, and all that has to be done is to touch the small handle spoken of, when it is desired to shove the window up or draw it down, when it becomes free and the window can be moved. There is one thing about it, catch it must; and moved out of place it cannot be, unless a force is applied to the handle: it is a sure and very neat fastener.—*Scientific American.*

PERFORATION OF A LEADEN WATER CISTERN BY INSECTS.—At a recent meeting of the London Chemical Society, an account was given by J. H. Gilbert, of the depredations of an insect belonging to the order Coleopera and genus Anabianca, on a water-cistern that had been constructed of worm-eaten wood lined with lead. In a little more than three years the cistern proved to be leaky, and a number of small perforations were found in the metal lining, which on careful examination were ascertained to have been produced by the above named insect. Other instances were referred to in which similar effects have been observed.—*Ibid.*

☞ We can not practice deceit without that deliberation of purpose which constitutes the very essence of vice.

Ladies' Department.

MARVELLOUS REMEDY FOR BURNS.

Let the patient dip the part which is burnt into common washing fluid, letting it remain therein ten or fifteen minutes; if the burn is on any other part of the body than the feet or hands, the fluid may be applied with a piece of cloth rolled together with a string tied around it—dip one end into the fluid and apply freely on the burnt part. As there are washing fluids in market that are too weak, it may be well to add two ounces of pulverized pearlash to one pint of fluid. The great advantage of this remedy is, it relieves the pain instantaneously, and prevents the formation of blisters. In burns by which the skin is taken off, so that there is an open wound, the above remedy has not been tried. In such a case caution should be observed. I have used it several times in the course of two years.

VINEGAR ADULTERATIONS.

A correspondent in the *Newark Daily Advertiser* makes the following statement—no doubt correct—in regard to adulterated vinegar, which is of importance to housekeepers. He says—

"Great pains are requsite in purchasing vinegar, as it is now manufactured to a great extent through-

out the country. Much of that recommended for its whiteness of color and general purity, combined with great acidity, is made by adding sulphuric acid to pure water. This is sometimes colored by adding burnt sugar in order to conform to the appearance of ordinary cider vinegar, while the former is sold as white wine vinegar. This deception is a very important one. Sulphuric acid is an acid poison, and possesses corrosive properties very different from acetic acid, and other properties upon the stomach and blood which it is unnecessary here to mention; but which make it evident that the effect of this combination, used as a daily food, is highly deleterious to health. Sulphuric acid has moreover an affinity for lime and its compounds which renders it very destructive to the teeth. I have before mentioned that a travelling quack dentist in and about New York is persuading the ignorant to allow him to cleanse their teeth from tartar, &c., with his preparation, which is nothing but sulphuric acid, and is certain destruction to the teeth. I have not intended to give a thorough discussion of this subject, but only to put people upon their guard in respect to an article upon everybody's table."

A MOTHER'S LOVE.

"A mother's love! How thrilling the sound! The angel spirit that watched over our infant years and cheered us with her smiles! O! how faithfully does memory cling to the fast fading mementoes of a parent's home, to remind us of the sweet counsels of a mother's tongue! And O, how instinctively do we hang over the scenes of our boyhood, brightened by the recollections of that waking eye that never closed while a single wave of misfortune or danger sighed around her child! Like the lone star in the heavens in the deep solitude of nature's night, she sits the presiding divinity of the family mansion, its delight and its charm, its stay and its hope, when all around her is overshadowed with the gloom of despondency and despair."

THE LITERARY ATTRACTIONS OF THE BIBLE.

This is the subject of a pamphlet in England, and sent to America by our Minister, Hon. Abbot Lawrence, for circulation here. It has been republished by the American Tract Society. Rev. Jas. Hamilton, of London, is its author. The following is an extract:—

"But in giving that Bible, its divine Author had regard to the mind of man. He knew that man has more curiosity than piety, more taste than sanctity; and that more persons are anxious to hear some new, or read some beauteous thing, than to read or hear about God and the great salvation.

"He knew that few would ever ask, What must I do to be saved? till they came in contact with the Bible itself; and therefore he made the Bible not only an instructive book, but an attractive one—not only true, but enticing. He filled it with marvellous incidents and engaging history—with sunny pictures from old world scenery, and affecting anecdotes from the patriarchal times. He replenished it with stately argument and thrilling verse, and sprinkled it over with sententious wisdom and proverbial pungency. He made it a book of lofty thoughts and noble images—a book of heavenly doctrine, but withal of earthly adaptation. In preparing a guide to immortality, infinite Wisdom gave not a dictionary or a grammar, but a Bible—a book which, in trying to catch the heart of man, should captivate his taste; and which, in transforming his affections, should also expand his intellect. The pearl is of great price; but even the casket is of exquisite beauty. The sword is of ethereal temper, and nothing cuts so keen as its double edge; but there are jewels on the hilt, and fine tracery on the scabbard. The shekels are of the purest ore, but even the scrip which contains them is of a texture more curious than that the artist of earth could fashion it. The apples are gold; but even the casket is silver."

A Suspicious Mind.—It is difficult to tell who suffers most from suspicion, he who entertains it, or he who incurs it. There are few evils more intolerable in life than the coldness and distrust of friends and acquaintances. But the pain of discovering an unworthy trait or a vile deed in those whom we have trusted, is hardly less distressing. God has made us social beings, and the social instinct cannot be outraged without pain. There is hardly any habit more unfortunate, than that of readily taking up an evil report, or of easily imbibing a suspicion of the conduct or character of our fellow men.

Sweet Potato Pudding.—Take five eggs, half a pound of butter, a quarter of a pound of sugar, add as much sweet potato as will thicken it, the juice and grated peel of a lemon; beat it very light.

☞ The New England Farmer is published *every other* Saturday by John Raynolds and Joel Nourse, at Quincy Hall, South Market Street, Boston.

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